

Community Issues Report

THIRD QUARTER 2009

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

10/3/09

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COMMUNITY ISSUES

7/1/09 – 9/30/09

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

July 17 , 2009

Residents in one Greenville County community continued their debate over well water and public water lines. Residents of Ware Place met at Beech Springs Church on Thursday night to talk about whether to have county water lines installed there, so residents can stop using well water. Those who do not want to have public water said they would have to pay up to \$600 a year for the lines even though they would not use them. A County Council member told them that if they did not pay the \$600, the county could put a lien on their homes. "This is America," said Greta McIntyre, who is against the plan. "You don't do that in America. If a few people want the water, there's another way to do it. Don't pressure people into doing something they can't afford or don't want." Get the city water," said Pam Boiter, who supports the plan. "I think it would be the most wonderful thing that's ever come down here." Some people who attended the meeting said they are confused and feel caught in the middle of the fight. The proposal would need 66 percent of the 500 residents to agree to it before the water lines could be installed."

August 28, 2009

Several probable cases of the [H1N1 flu virus](#) have been reported at three schools in Anderson County, school leaders said Thursday. The cases appeared at TL Hanna High School, McCants Middle School and Lakeside Middle School. School district leaders said they will keep the schools open and follow guidelines established by the Department of Health and Environmental Control. They said parents are being asked to keep their children at home if they develop flu-like symptoms or a fever. "I think it's a very good thing because it's something we all need to be concerned about," said Donna Wilbanks, a parent. "We're so concerned about it with the general public. You know, it's a scary thing with the regular flu and [swine flu](#). It's a good thing they keep us notified." I think if everybody just really washes their hands and really covers, you know like that flier thing they sent home," said Tiffany Frialde, another parent. "I think everybody will be just fine." Experts said that people should wash their hands frequently to prevent the spread of the virus and cough or sneeze into their elbow, instead of their hands.

August 31, 2009

North Carolina consumers are going to feel another pinch at the mall, the ABC store and most everywhere in between. The state's sales tax goes up a full penny on Tuesday, bringing the total rate charged in most counties to 7.75 percent. At the same time, cigarettes, beer, wine and liquor will have higher excise [taxes](#). The higher taxes are part of \$1 billion in new revenues the Democratic-led Legislature and Gov. Beverly Perdue agreed upon to balance the state budget. Democrats said they are not happy with higher taxes but said it was better than laying off more workers and maybe putting prisoners out on the street. Republicans and anti-tax groups said unemployed voters struggling to scrape by will feel the pain acutely.

September 4, 2009

Fewer people in North Carolina and South Carolina are expected to travel this Labor Day compared to last year. AAA Carolinas spokesman Brendan Byrnes said around 15 percent fewer people will travel in both states for the last summer holiday of 2009 as the economic downturn continues to affect plans. Byrnes said Labor Day travel will be higher than [Memorial Day](#) travel this year, a reverse of the usual trend. In South Carolina, 497,000 people are expected to travel at least 50 miles from [home](#) -- a 14 percent increase from Memorial Day. More than a million North Carolinians are expected to travel at least 50 miles from home, an increase of 12.5 percent from Memorial Day.

September 15, 2009

A [South Carolina](#) hospital will raise rates by 3 percent this fall as part of a new budget that will also add more than 460 new positions. Multiple media outlets reported Wednesday the rate increase at Greenville Hospital System will take effect on Oct. 1. The price of private rooms will increase from \$785 to \$810 a day. Hospital officials said that the rate increase is the lowest in years. Chief [financial](#) officer Susan Bichel said the smaller increase reflects economic downturns and trends in hospitals around the country. Three hundred physicians, nurses and clinical staff positions will be added. Greenville Hospital System will add around 100 positions to its clinical support staff and 50 to its corporate support staff.

September 17, 2009

One in three teenage girls have rolled up their sleeves for a relatively new vaccine against [cervical cancer](#), according to a new government report, but vaccination rates vary dramatically between states. The highest rates were in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, where more than half of girls ages 13 through 17 got at least one dose of the three-shot vaccination. The lowest rates were in Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina. The federal report is the first to give state-by-state rates for the Gardasil vaccine that targets the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus. The report was released Thursday by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

September 27, 2009


The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has dropped nearly seven cents over a two-week period to \$2.52. That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday. Prices fell even further after the survey was released, with the average retail price falling below \$2.50 a gallon Monday morning, the first time it reached that level in two months. The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline fell a half a penny overnight to \$2.499, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. That's 11 cents less than a month ago, and nearly \$1.16 below what drivers were paying at this time last year. Analyst Trilby Lundberg says the average price for a gallon of mid-grade on the survey day of Sept. 25 was \$2.65. Premium was at \$2.77. St. Louis had the lowest average price among cities surveyed, at \$2.16 a gallon for regular. Anchorage was the highest at \$3.29. In California, a gallon of regular cost an average of \$3.09. Stockton had the state's least expensive gas at \$3.06 a gallon. San Francisco remained the steepest at \$3.15.

September 29, 2009

Old people get sick more than young people, and in most states that adds up to them paying a lot more for their health insurance premiums. President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats want to restrict that practice as part of a top-to-bottom reshaping of the nation's health care system, a change that will help them politically with aging Americans skeptical about the government's plans. Urging them to do it is AARP, the powerful senior citizens' lobby, which says making older people pay more amounts to age discrimination. On the opposite side is the health insurance industry, which says it's an unavoidable business decision because premiums are based on expected expenses and older people have higher health care costs. Caught in the middle are people like Colleen Malone-Engel, 53, of Culver City, Calif., who says her insurance premiums jumped when she turned 50 even though she's in good health. "I don't think it's fair," said Malone-Engel, whose name was provided to The Associated Press by AARP. "I understand why the insurance companies do that -- because they know that older people need more health care -- but I was pretty stunned to have that hit me at 50. Because 50 is still young." Age rating has the biggest impact on people like Malone-Engel who are in their 50s or early 60s and buy coverage plans directly from insurers. Once they turn 65 they become eligible for Medicare and it's no longer an issue. In states without restrictions on the practice -- around a dozen limit it to one degree or another -- insurance companies will typically charge six or seven times as much to older customers as to younger ones. For example, a 20-year-old might be able to buy an insurance [plan](#) for a monthly premium of \$100 that would cost a 60-year-old \$700. The price difference could happen even if the 20-year-old is overweight,

while the 60-year-old exercises and has no health problems. However, other factors, such as whether someone smokes, also are considered by companies when setting premiums. [House](#) Democrats have proposed imposing an age rating limit of 2 to 1, meaning that a 60-year-old could only be charged twice as much as a 20-year-old based on age. That's the level embraced by AARP, but insurance companies say it could drive premium prices up for younger workers by as much as 59 percent. They say young people would be bearing larger costs because there would be less flexibility to charge older people more money. An estimated 40 percent of the uninsured are between the ages of 18 to 34. "We're very concerned that the impact is to raise rates so much for young people as to make it unaffordable," said Alissa Fox, a top lobbyist for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Higher rates could have the effect of discouraging younger people from buying insurance, resulting in fewer healthy people in the insured population and more costly premiums for all, Blue Cross and Blue Shield wrote in a joint letter with America's Health Insurance Plans. The letter was sent to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., on Sept. 23. In his committee's bill, Baucus originally had proposed a 5 to 1 age rating limit. But after complaints from more liberal Democrats -- who prefer the 2 to 1 ratio embraced by the House and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee -- Baucus lowered it to 4 to 1. The move by Baucus pleased no one. Insurers already thought the 5 to 1 ratio was too compressed and said 4 to 1 was even worse. AARP said it was a step in the right direction but still not good enough. "Some people would characterize this as an age discrimination issue," said AARP Executive Vice President John Rother. It's uncertain where age rating will end up in any final bill that passes Congress, and Obama's position is unclear. The White House Web site says Obama's plan "will limit premium variation based on age" but doesn't give any details, and a spokeswoman declined to elaborate. Baucus aides said they tried to strike a balance between making coverage affordable for older people and getting young people into the market, but some committee Democrats are still pushing for a 2 to 1 limit. They say they hope to prevail with help from seniors monitoring the debate. "Now they're watching the Congress talk about health care reform and the Congress is talking about passing a law that says it's OK to make them pay four times more than somebody else. And I just think the Congress will have to do better," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said in an interview.

September 29, 2009

Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will recall 3.8 million vehicles in the United States, the company's largest-ever U.S. recall, to address problems with a removable floor mat that could cause accelerators to get stuck and lead to a crash. The recall will involve popular models such as the Toyota Camry, the top-selling passenger car in America, and the Toyota Prius, the best-selling gas-electric [hybrid](#). Toyota said it was still working with officials with the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)  to find a remedy to fix the problem and said owners could be notified about the recall as early as next week. Toyota spokesman Irv Miller said until the company finds a fix, owners should take out the removable floor mat on the driver's side and not replace it. "A stuck open accelerator pedal may result in very high vehicle speeds and make it difficult to stop a vehicle, which could cause a crash, serious injury or death," Miller said. Toyota and the government issued separate warnings to owners of Toyota and Lexus vehicles about the safety problems tied to the floor mats. "This is an urgent matter," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement. "For everyone's sake, we strongly urge owners of these vehicles to remove mats or other obstacles that could lead to unintended acceleration." The recall will affect 2007-2010 model year Toyota Camry, 2005-2010 Toyota Avalon, 2004-2009 Toyota Prius, 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2007-2010 Toyota Tundra, 2007-2010 Lexus ES350 and 2006-2010 Lexus IS250 and IS350. Toyota's previously largest U.S. recall was about 900,000 vehicles in 2005 to fix a steering issue. The company declined to say how many complaints it had received about the accelerator issue. NHTSA said it had received reports of 102 incidents in which the accelerator may have become stuck on the Toyota vehicles involved. The Japanese automaker warned owners that if they think their vehicle is accelerating out of control, they should check to see whether their floor mat is under the pedal. If a driver can't remove the floor mat, Toyota advises drivers to step on the brake pedal with both feet until the vehicle slows and then try to put it into neutral and switch the ignition to accessory power. For vehicles with engine start/stop buttons, Toyota said the engine can be shut off by holding the button down for three seconds. The safety concern was prompted by a fiery crash in California that killed four family members in August near San Diego. The crash killed California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Saylor, 45, and three others on State Route 125 in Santee. The runaway car was traveling at more than 120 mph when it hit a sport utility vehicle, launched off an embankment, rolled several times and burst into flames. In mid-September, Toyota ordered 1,400 Toyota and Lexus dealers nationwide to ensure that each new, used and loaner vehicles had the proper floor mats and that the mats were properly secured. In September 2007, Toyota recalled an accessory all-weather floor mat sold for use in some 2007 and 2008 model year Lexus ES 350 and Toyota Camry vehicles because of similar problems. For more information, consumers can contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's hotline at (888) 327-4236, Toyota at (800) 331-4331 or Lexus at (800) 255-3987.

September 30, 2009

Can't find an ATM from [your bank](#) nearby? Keep walking, unless you want to pay higher fees. An annual survey released Wednesday by Bankrate.com found the average ATM fee for non-customers rose 12.6 percent this year to \$2.22. You'll likely get dinged by your own bank, too. The average fee banks charge customers for using another bank's ATM is \$1.32. That fee, however, dropped from \$1.46 in 2008, as some banks reduced or waived it. About 72 percent of banks now charge customers a fee for using an ATM from a different bank, according to the Bankrate survey. Nearly all banks charge non-customers for using their ATMs. The average fee for overdrawing an account, meanwhile, rose 2.1 percent to \$29.58 this year. In 1998, that fee was \$21.57. About a quarter of banks charge more for the second overdraft during a 12-month period. The average charge for the second to fourth overdrafts is \$33.88. Bounce a third check, and a third of banks have an even higher penalty that averages \$36.19. "Even though the fees are moving higher, they're completely avoidable," said Greg McBride, a senior analyst with Bankrate.com. That might be why banks are coming down harder on fees, he said -- people are being more diligent about avoiding them. [The American Bankers Association](#), an industry group, says the majority of consumers do not pay any monthly fees for services. Meanwhile, the Bankrate.com study found online accounts still provide better yields than traditional banks -- 0.69 versus 0.12, respectively. There are other benefits to online accounts, including lower fees and minimum balances. The average minimum balance for online banks was \$812.50, compared with \$3,372.18 for traditional banks. If balances fall below the minimum, online accounts charged a \$3.75 fee, compared with a \$12.55 fee with traditional accounts. However, the minimum deposit requirement for opening an interest-bearing online account (\$681.50) is higher than with a traditional bank (\$473.12). Checking accounts that bear interest don't seem to be a good deal. The average minimum balance is \$3,372.18. The average fee for falling below the line is now \$12.55, up 5 percent from last year. The trade-off? A measly average yield of 0.12 percent, down from 0.24 percent last year. The data come from surveys with the five largest banks and five largest thrifts, and is based on deposits in the top 25 metropolitan markets in the country, according to BankRate.com, a consumer finance Web site.

September 30, 2009

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told a skeptical Congress Thursday that the central bank is "well suited" to oversee colossal [financial companies](#) whose failure could endanger the entire economy. His written testimony did not mention the Fed losing some of its consumer protection duties, after the Fed chief previously criticized the Obama administration for its plan to strip the central bank of some of those powers. Testifying before the House Financial Services Committee, Bernanke said only that protecting consumers from abusive practices involving mortgages, [credit](#) cards and other financial products is "vitally important." In past appearances on Capitol Hill, Bernanke has laid out a spirited defense that the Fed should keep those powers. The administration wants to create a consumer protection agency for risky financial products. Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., was stunned by what he thought was Bernanke's short shrift to the consumer protection issue. "Five sentences on consumer protection when everything else that we talked about this morning get substantially more space," Watt said. "It's just not a good message to send." During the hearing, Bernanke conceded that the Fed didn't do the job it should have in protecting consumers, but said improvements are being made. He suggested the central bank could take further steps to strengthen such oversight. "We are competent and have the skills ... I think we can do that," he said. Pressed later to state a position on whether a new consumer agency is needed, Bernanke responded: "I'm not going to tell Congress what to do." Bernanke did lay out a case for the additional power over so-called "too big to fail" financial companies, which could include insurance companies, hedge funds and others beyond the big banks traditionally overseen by the Fed. In fielding questions, Bernanke said the "focus" in that regard should remain on financial firms, rather than on other types of companies. As part of a sweeping rewrite of the nation's financial rule book, the administration has proposed tapping the Fed to regulate those companies, and Bernanke said the central bank has the expertise to best carry out those duties. For both accountability and effectiveness, that power is "best vested with a single agency," Bernanke said. "I believe that the expertise we have developed in supervising large, diversified and interconnected banking organizations ... makes the Federal Reserve well suited to serve as the consolidated supervisor." The Fed would be willing to concede some of its bailout power if Congress creates a new mechanism to safely wind down big financial firms on the brink, something along the lines of what the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. does with banks, Bernanke said. The Fed's bailout of insurance giant American International Group Inc. and its financial backing of JPMorgan's takeover of Bear Stearns angered the public and some in Congress. On another matter, Bernanke said the Fed is "about to issue" a proposal cracking down on executive pay. It seeks to make sure that bonuses and other compensation don't encourage undue risk-taking that could hurt the company or the larger financial system. Asked whether a crisis is brewing in the troubled commercial real-estate market, Bernanke responded: "I don't think so. But we'll have to watch it carefully." To police the broader U.S. financial system for risks, Bernanke supported a council of regulators to do that job -- also in line with Obama's proposal. All financial regulators, Bernanke said, should step up day-to-day oversight and have a big-picture approach in this area. "To further encourage a more comprehensive and holistic approach to financial oversight, all federal financial supervisors and regulators -- not just the Federal Reserve -- should be directed and empowered to take account of risks to the broader financial system," he said. Bernanke said potential risks monitored by the council could include significant increases in

leverage at companies and gaps in regulatory coverage that can arise when new financial products are created. The Fed chief said a "no doc loan" -- where people don't have to document their income to a lender-- would be an example of a risky product. Those loans were made during the housing boom and contributed to the bust. Bernanke insisted that his endorsement of a council to police risk isn't a shift in his stance. "There has been some misunderstanding ... we support a council ... we never objected to a council," he said. "My position has not changed." Both Democrats and Republicans have been loathe to give the Fed additional powers. They argue that the central bank failed to spot problems that led to the financial crisis in the first place. "We have had debate and will have further debate about exactly what the role of the Federal Reserve will be in the systemic risk regulation. There were some, myself included, who earlier this year thought the Federal Reserve would have a larger role than it looks like it will have," said committee chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass. Bernanke also said if the economy were to grow at a 3 percent pace in the coming quarters, it would not be sufficient to quickly drive down the unemployment rate. The jobless rate -- now at a 26-year high of 9.7 percent and expected to hit 9.8 percent for September when that figure is released Friday -- would still be above 9 percent by the end of 2010, he said. The economy shrank at 0.7 percent pace in the second quarter and is expected to grow at a pace of at least 3 percent in the just-completed third quarter.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	2:30am	MISSING
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Description: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

July 1, 2009

Authorities said a mother and daughter were found dead in a Gaffney home Wednesday. The bodies were found at 114 Buck Shoals Road, FOX Carolina News reported. Police identified the victims as Hazel Keaton Linder, 83, and her daughter, Gena Linder Parker, 50. They were both fatally shot. Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton said the last time the two victims were seen alive was at about 1 p.m. Wednesday. Blanton would not say if the deaths were linked to that of 63-year-old Kline Cash, a peach farmer found shot to death at his home June 27. State Law Enforcement Division agents and Spartanburg County sheriff's deputies helping investigate Cash's death responded to Wednesday's shooting. During a news conference Wednesday evening, Blanton said a dark blue van was seen at the home between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Blanton said at this time, investigators don't know if the van belongs to a friend of the victims or if it is the killer's car. Investigators are asking anyone who might have information about the vehicle to call the sheriff's office. Another news conference has been scheduled for Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

July 2, 2009

At a news conference Thursday, Sheriff Bill Blanton said the slayings of a Gaffney mother and daughter Wednesday are connected to the killing of a Cherokee County man last weekend. FOX Carolina News reported that 83-year-old Hazel Keaton Linder, and her daughter, 50-year-old Gena Linder Parker, were both found fatally shot in their home at 114 Buck Shoals Road. The last time the two victims were seen alive was at about 1 p.m. Wednesday, Blanton said. Blanton said if the deaths were linked to that of 63-year-old Kline Cash, a peach farmer found fatally shot at his home on Battleground Road June 27. Deputies said he was gunned down between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. The FBI has joined in the investigation. Authorities said they believe the gunman is targeting women. Investigators said they think he was targeting Mrs. Cash but she wasn't home at the time. Deputies have released a sketch of the gunman. Investigators said the culprit is described as a white man with salt and pepper hair, about 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing about 250 pounds. At the time of the Kline's slaying, deputies said the man had a three or four day old beard. Deputies said the man was last seen driving a 1991 to 1994 Ford Explorer Sport. The two-door SUV is gray or champagne in color and the paint on the vehicle is faded. Investigators said they are also searching for a dark blue van last seen at Linder and Parker's home between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Blanton said at this time, investigators don't know if the van belongs to a friend of the victims or if it is the killer's vehicle. Investigators are asking anyone who might have information about the culprit or the vehicles to call the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office at 864-489-4722 or Crimestoppers at 864-489-2746. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

July 4, 2009

Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton released a new sketch of the suspected serial killer on Saturday. The sketch was made with the help of witnesses. The sheriff confirmed in a news conference on Friday that the person responsible for five recent killings in that county is a serial killer. During the news conference Sheriff Blanton said, "Under the FBI's definition of a serial killer, yes, we have a serial killer." Investigators have not figured out how the victims are linked or if they knew the man who shot them. So far, all they have is a sketch of a suspect and a possible getaway vehicle, said Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton. "There's no evidence there is a hit list," Blanton said. "There's no evidence he knows the victims. There's no evidence the victims are connected." But plenty of evidence links the killings, said Blanton, who would not provide details. FOX Carolina confirmed with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office that the five recent slayings in the county are connected. Investigators are searching continuously to try to find the killer, and reward flyers featuring a composite sketch have been made. The Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler released the name of the fourth victim early Friday morning. Stephen Tyler, 48, was shot and killed at his business -- Tyler Home Center -- on Thursday night. Tyler's 15-year-old daughter, Abby, was also shot in the head and was transported to an area hospital. She died on Saturday as a result of her injuries, Fowler said in a release. Tyler's wife, his older daughter and an employee found them, Fowler said. The shooting of the Tylers is only the latest incident in the violent spree of shootings. The killing spree began last Saturday about 10 miles from Tyler Home Center. Peach farmer Kline Cash, 63, was found shot in his living room. Investigators said he appeared to have been robbed, but they haven't determined if anything was taken in the latest killings. On Wednesday, about seven miles from Tyler Home Center, family members found the bodies of 83-year-old Hazel Linder and her 50-year-old daughter, Gena Linder Parker, bound and shot in Linder's home. Blanton would not say if Tyler and his daughter were also bound. During Friday's news conference, Sheriff Blanton said the search is focusing on an early 1990's model Ford Explorer. The Sheriff urged everyone to be cautious and to report any tips or suspicious activity to crime stoppers at (864) 489-CRIME. The shootings have prompted fear in Cherokee County, 50 miles south of Charlotte, N.C., and home to about 54,000 people. The county had just six homicides in all of 2008, and that was double the number reported the year before. Residents have "their guard up and their gun handy," said state Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Gaffney, who recalled the area being terrorized once before, in the 1960s, by a serial killer dubbed the Gaffney Strangler -- who murdered several women before he was caught. "There is no greater fear than the fear of the unknown and nobody knows. You can cut the tension with a knife," Peeler said. "People are locking their doors, even in broad daylight." The latest shootings took place less than a half-mile from the sheriff's office, the command center where at least 30 investigators were already working on the case. Blanton said a profiler has brought up the possibility that Tyler and his daughter were shot to taunt investigators, but he said his only concern is solving the case. "We had a 15-year-old girl shot; he killed an 83-year-old woman. The good people of this community don't deserve that. And it doesn't look like he shows much concern or remorse," Blanton said. The sheriff reminded people they have a right to protect themselves and asked them to call 911 to report anything suspicious. He also advised salesmen and others to avoid knocking on strangers' doors with so many on heightened alert. "People are going to start shooting at shadows," Blanton said.

July 6, 2009

Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton identified the man believed to be the Cherokee County serial killer as 42-year-old Patrick Tracy Burris. Blanton said Monday night that Burris is the same man who was shot and killed by North Carolina police on Monday morning. According to Gaston County police, officers responded to a burglary-in-progress call early Monday morning. They said when officers arrived, they found three people at the home. Police said that one of the people provided false information about his identity. They said that after checking the man's background they found he was wanted on outstanding warrants in Lincoln County, N.C. They said that as officers began to arrest the man, he pulled out a gun and fired at officers, hitting one officer in the leg. They said officers returned fire, killing the man. . The officer who was shot is expected to recover. Blanton said that the weapon Burris used to shoot the officer on Monday morning is the same weapon used to kill all five victims in Cherokee County. He said the vehicle found near the scene of the North Carolina shooting also matches the vehicle believed to be seen at all three of the shooting scenes in South Carolina. Jennifer Timmons with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said that investigators from South Carolina have been in North Carolina most of the day looking into any possible connection between the shooting in Gaston County, N.C., and the five killings in Cherokee County. Blanton said Burris is responsible for five slayings throughout the county in the past week. The spree began on June 27 with the death of 63-year-old peach farmer Kline Cash, who was found by his wife shot to death in their home. Then last Wednesday, relatives discovered the bodies of 50-year-old Gena Parker and her mother, 83-year-old Hazel Linder. On Thursday, 48-year-old Stephen Tyler and his 15-year-old daughter, Abby, were shot to death as they were closing the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney. Both Parker and Linder were laid to rest on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Gaffney. Blanton thanked the media for their assistance in providing information to the public during the killing spree. "Our goal was to keep him for killing for one day and that gave us one day to catch him," said Blanton. "That day was today." Blanton said that investigators are still trying to piece together the motive behind the killing spree.

July 6, 2009

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said Monday that the reward for information leading to the arrest of the Cherokee County serial killer has been increased to \$20,000. Deputies said that they are following up leads and tips they have received about the Cherokee County serial killer. Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton appeared on CNN's "American Morning" on Monday. He said that residents are using caution but life is continuing as normal there. Investigators have said the same man is responsible for five slayings throughout the county in the past week. The spree began on June 27 with the death of 63-year-old peach farmer Kline Cash, who was found shot to death by his wife in their home. Then last Wednesday, relatives discovered the bodies of 50-year-old Gena Parker and her mother, 83-year-old Hazel Linder. On Thursday, 48-year-old Stephen Tyler and his 15-year-old daughter, Abby, were shot to death as they were closing the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney. Both Parker and Linder were laid to rest on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Gaffney. Another body was found in Gaffney on Sunday night near the corner of North Petty and East Robinson streets. Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said that this person died of natural causes and the death is not connected to the spree of slayings in the county. The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and the FBI are investigating the rash of killings. Anyone who has information on any of the five killings is asked to call the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office immediately. Deputies said that anyone wishing to donate to the reward fund can call 864-489-4722, ext. 113 and speak with Leigh Caldwell.

July 6, 2009

Investigators from South Carolina were in Gaston County, N.C., on Monday morning to look into a possible link between a shooting there and the serial slayings in Cherokee County. According to Gaston County police, officers responded to a burglary-in-progress call early Monday morning. They said when officers arrived, they found three people at the home. Police said that one of the people provided false information about his identity. They said that after checking the man's background they found he was wanted on outstanding warrants in Lincoln County, N.C. They said that as officers began to arrest the man, he pulled out a gun and fired at officers, hitting one officer in the leg. They said officers returned fire, killing the man. The officer who was shot is expected to recover. Jennifer Timmons with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said that investigators from South Carolina are looking into any possible connection between the shooting in Gaston County, N.C., and the five killings in Cherokee County. Timmons said that it is not uncommon for investigators to cross state lines when gathering information about criminal activity. Police said that a vehicle that was found at the scene was similar to the one being sought in connection with the Cherokee County slayings, which was a gray or champagne-colored older-model Ford SUV.

Timmons said the vehicle was similar in description but that she could not confirm whether it was the vehicle investigators have been looking for. **Sanford Issues Statement On Recent Killings** South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford issued a statement on Monday afternoon about the rash of killings in Cherokee County. "We've all watched and (have) been shocked by news of the recent murders in Cherokee County," Sanford said. "I've been briefed by (SLED) Chief Reggie Lloyd on the situation today. I'd ask South Carolinians to join my family and me in prayer for the grieving families of the victims, and to thank all levels of law enforcement who have been and continue to work on this case." **Reward In Cherokee Co. Slayings Increased** The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said Monday that the reward for information leading to the arrest of the Cherokee County serial killer has been increased to \$34,500. Deputies said that they are following up leads and tips they have received about the Cherokee County serial killer. Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton appeared on CNN's "American Morning" on Monday. He said that residents are using caution but that life is continuing as normal there. Investigators have said the same man is responsible for five slayings throughout the county in the past week. The spree began on June 27 with the death of 63-year-old peach farmer Kline Cash, who was found shot to death by his wife in their home. Then last Wednesday, relatives discovered the bodies of 50-year-old Gena Parker and her mother, 83-year-old Hazel Linder. On Thursday, 48-year-old Stephen Tyler and his 15-year-old daughter, Abby, were shot to death as they were closing the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney. Both Parker and Linder were laid to rest on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Gaffney. Another body was found in Gaffney on Sunday night near the corner of North Petty and East Robinson streets. Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said that this person died of natural causes and the death is not connected to the spree of slayings in the county. The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and the FBI are investigating the rash of killings. Anyone who has information on any of the five killings is asked to call the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office immediately. Deputies said that anyone wishing to donate to the reward fund can call 864-489-4722, ext. 113 and speak with Leigh Caldwell.

July 6, 2009

Cherokee County Sheriff Bill Blanton identified the man believed to be the Cherokee County serial killer as 42-year-old Patrick Tracy Burris. Blanton said Monday night that Burris is the same man who was shot and killed by North Carolina police on Monday morning. According to Gaston County police, officers responded to a burglary-in-progress call early Monday morning. They said when officers arrived, they found three people at the home. Police said that one of the people provided false information about his identity. They said that after checking the man's background they found he was wanted on outstanding warrants in Lincoln County, N.C. They said that as officers began to arrest the man, he pulled out a gun and fired at officers, hitting one officer in the leg. They said officers returned fire, killing the man. The officer who was shot is expected to recover. Blanton said that the weapon Burris used to shoot the officer on Monday morning is the same weapon used to kill all five victims in Cherokee County. He said the vehicle found near the scene of the North Carolina shooting also matches the vehicle believed to be seen at all three of the shooting scenes in South Carolina. Jennifer Timmons with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division said that investigators from South Carolina have been in North Carolina most of the day looking into any possible connection between the shooting in Gaston County, N.C., and the five killings in Cherokee County. Blanton said Burris is responsible for five slayings throughout the county in the past week. The spree began on June 27 with the death of 63-year-old peach farmer Kline Cash, who was found by his wife shot to death in their home. Then last Wednesday, relatives discovered the bodies of 50-year-old Gena Parker and her mother, 83-year-old Hazel Linder. On Thursday, 48-year-old Stephen Tyler and his 15-year-old daughter, Abby, were shot to death as they were closing the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney. Both Parker and Linder were laid to rest on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Gaffney. Blanton thanked the media for their assistance in providing information to the public during the killing spree. "Our goal was to keep him for killing for one day and that gave us one day to catch him," said Blanton. "That day was today. Blanton said that investigators are still trying to piece together the motive behind the killing spree.

July 9, 2009

A North Carolina man said that the man named as the Cherokee County serial killer by investigators was engaged to his mother just before his killing spree started. Jimmy Vargas said he knew Burris for years and never thought he was capable of killing anyone. Vargas said that his mother and Burris were pen pals while he participated in a work-release program in North Carolina, according to The State newspaper. The newspaper reported that Vargas said the couple planned to get married as soon as Burris' birth certificate arrived. "They had plans to get married soon," Vargas said. "She told him she was going to

wait on him, and they were going to be happy.” Vargas said he looked to Burris as a father figure. Burris is the man investigators have said gunned down five people in Cherokee County last week. The final two victims of Burris rampage were laid to rest on Wednesday. Stephen Tyler and his daughter Abby were shot and killed while they closed up their store in downtown Gaffney on July 2. Hundreds of family and friends gathered at Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church on Wednesday to pay their final respects to the father and daughter. The Tylers were long time members of the church. Stephen Tyler was a deacon and taught Sunday school there. Abby was an active member of the youth council. “The Tylers were a well respected, remarkable, wonderful family and people love them dearly and want to be there for them,” said Mark Hazle, a youth pastor. The father and daughter were buried at Frederick Memorial Gardens.

July 16, 2009

Officials said Thursday morning that a three-day-long drug sweep across the county has resulted in the seizure of several pounds of meth and the arrest of some high-level drug dealers. Deputies with Anderson and Oconee counties, agents with the FBI and the State Law Enforcement Division and the SWAT team have assisted in the roundup. Investigators said that they have seized 20 to 30 pounds of meth and a lot of cash, so far. They said most of that came from the same house. Deputies said they have also arrested six to eight high-level drug dealers. They said that one of those arrests came after a short car chase and crash. They said that one of the suspected drug dealers sped away when deputies tried to pull him over on Old Asbury Road and Highway 24. They said he threw drugs out of the car window and onto the bridge over Lake Hartwell. They said he then crashed into a tree. The man was taken to the hospital, treated for his injuries and released. He was being held in the Anderson County Jail. All of the agencies involved will conduct another sweep of the county on Thursday afternoon and Friday. They said they have their eyes on several other houses where they believe drug activity is present.

July 23, 2009

A Spartanburg couple has been found guilty of abusing three boys who were in their charge in 2006. Scott and Molly McCurry were taking care of the three boys when they were arrested and charged with child abuse after deputies said they received tips about the abuse. Prosecutors have said that the three boys, ages 5, 7 and 8, were starved and extremely weak. They said the 5-year-old weighed 20 pounds, the 7-year-old weighed 32 pounds and the 8-year-old weighed 39 pounds. Investigators have said the McCurrys would punish the boys by tying them to their beds to keep them away from food. They said that when the children were found, all three of them had lice and bruises on their heads, legs and backs. On Wednesday, the McCurrys took the stand in their own defense. Scott McCurry said that he tied the boys up to “keep them from having sex with each other.” He said that the two older boys were sexually assaulting the younger boy. “I tried to put cuffs on their hands and see if that would keep them from touching their selves,” Scott McCurry testified. “We tried separating them in different rooms, but that didn’t work. The only way I knew them kids wouldn’t get in touch with one another and us get a little bit of sleep was to restrain them kids.” Molly McCurry said she always fed the boys breakfast and lunch and said the family would go out for dinner. “If I cooked super, whatever we got, the kids got fed first,” Molly McCurry testified. “They would eat what we ate.” Molly McCurry said that social workers instructed her to feed the boys small meals because they would eat too much and throw it up. The McCurrys’ daughter also took the stand on Wednesday. The 13-year-old testified that her parents would force the three boys to watch the rest of the family eat, while not giving them anything to eat. She said she would often sneak the boys food after her parents went to bed. The couple’s daughter also said that the McCurrys would force the boys to stand facing a wall while wearing backpacks filled with heavy objects. The jury deliberated for about 2 1/2 hours on Thursday and returned a guilty verdict for the McCurrys on three counts each of child abuse and three counts each of unlawful conduct toward a child. The judge sentenced the couple to 20 years each in prison and ordered the couple serve at least 85 percent of the sentence before being eligible for parole.

July 24, 2009

Greenville County deputies charged a Greer homebuilder on Thursday with defrauding two insurance companies of more than \$228,000. Deputies said the investigation began in February when Brian Lawrence reported two burglaries at homes that his company, Colonial Homes Inc., was building. They said that between Feb. 25 and June 23, Lawrence reported six burglaries to homes that his company was building. Investigators said that Lawrence filed four claims with insurance companies, saying that the burglaries resulted in a loss of more than \$322,000 for his company. They said that two of the claims were settled with Lawrence receiving \$228,581.85. Deputies said that with the help of the National Insurance Crime Bureau they were able to prove that Lawrence never [purchased](#) the materials that he claimed were stolen. They said he also provided false documents to the

insurance companies to support his claims. Lawrence was charged with six counts of filing a false police report, five counts of forgery in excess of \$5,000, two counts of submitting a false claim for payment and three counts of making a false statement or misrepresentation. Lawrence was being held at the Greenville County Detention Center on \$160,000 bond.

July 29, 2009

South Carolina authorities have seized \$5 million worth of marijuana plants that were growing in fields in a northern county. The Herald of Rock Hill reported Wednesday that more than 2,500 plants, found in Chester County, have been confiscated and destroyed. No one has been arrested on charges of growing the drug. The bust was part of an eradication effort in York, Chester, Lancaster and Fairfield counties. State Law Enforcement Division Narcotics Lt. Max Dorsey said marijuana-growing operations have been increasing in the area for several years. Last month, authorities seized 11,000 marijuana plants in Chester County worth \$22 million. Elsewhere Tuesday, officers seized 128 marijuana plants from a field in Hampton County. Sheriff's spokeswoman Shellie Murdaugh said they were worth \$256,000.

July 29, 2009

Most of the nearly 350 suspected illegal immigrants rounded up during a raid on an Upstate poultry [plant](#) have been deported, officials said. U.S. Attorney Walt Wilkins said Wednesday that about 50 workers arrested after the raid on Columbia Farms' [Greenville](#) plant on Rutherford Road, were released and 25 were prosecuted. The rest were immediately deported after the Oct. 7, 2008 raid. Wilkins gave the update as the plant's manager approached arraignment on allegations that he knew illegal immigrants were being hired at the plant. Barry Cronin and company officials are expected in federal court Thursday. Personnel manager Elaine Crump already has pleaded not guilty to lying on employment forms. North Carolina-based House of Raeford owns Columbia Farms and has not been charged.

July 30, 2009

A [Spartanburg](#) County judge has ordered that a popular wedding venue close, but not before allowing weddings already scheduled to take place. The controversy over Spiegel Farms in Campobello began after neighbors complained about loud music and fireworks at the farm. Members of the Windswept Plantation Homeowners Association accused Sue Spiegel, who runs the venue, in a lawsuit of violating the covenant for the neighborhood. On Wednesday, a judge ruled in their favor. "In the declaration of covenants, the lots located in Windswept Plantation are restricted to residential or horse farm use, which does not include commercial," Judge Gordon Cooper said in his ruling. Cooper ruled that [weddings](#) scheduled between now and Dec. 20 will be allowed to take place, with some stipulations. He said that there cannot be any more fireworks displays at the farm and the music must end by 11 p.m.

August 13, 2009

A Spartanburg County homeowner caught two men breaking into his car last week on his surveillance video system. The break in happened at a home on Mason Drive in Inman last Friday morning. The video shows two young men walking up to the homeowner's car parked in his driveway, opening the doors, taking several items and then running away. Deputies said that it is a big help in their investigation when they have the thieves on video tape committing the crime. "It's great," said Master Deputy Tony Ivey with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. "As the old adage goes, 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' So instead of us trying to speculate on who it was, we actually have them on video tape." Anyone with information about the theft was asked to call Spartanburg County Crime stoppers at 58-CRIME.

August 18, 2009

Mauldin police arrested a Greenwood man on Monday after they said he solicited sex from an undercover officer via an Internet chat. Police said that 24-year-old John Sherrill II was charged with two counts of criminal solicitation

of a minor. Investigators said that Sherrill solicited sex from a person he thought was a 13-year-old girl in an Internet chat room. In reality, Sherill was chatting with an undercover police officer. Sherill's home was searched and a desktop computer and laptop computer were seized. Sherill was assigned a \$30,000 [bond](#).

September 1, 2009

Prosecutors say that Clemson City Councilwoman Elouise James was arrested on Tuesday on several charges in Greenville and Pickens counties. According to Solicitor Bob Airail, James said her daughter had cancer in order to collect money for her daughter's legal troubles. He said that James also forged a statement from the Cancer Centers for the Carolinas to avoid her daughter's prosecution, and used her power of attorney to obtain a reverse mortgage on her mother's home to pay her daughter's legal fees. James was charged with two counts of forgery, obstruction of justice, obtaining goods by false pretenses and financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. In a statement sent to FOX Carolina, James said. "I didn't do anything for self gain or with criminal intent. I was trying to help my daughter and thought she was sick. I've already lost two sons and was just trying to help my child." If convicted, James faces up to 21 years in prison.

September 15, 2009

A Greenville County judge has been suspended as deputies investigate [money](#) that he reported missing from his office. Deputies said that Magistrate James Hudson requested an investigation by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office after money went missing from [bank accounts](#) in August. Investigators said that at least one employee was involved in the theft, but they would not release the person's name. Deputies said that Hudson's suspension does not mean that he is part of the investigation into the missing money.

September 17, 2009

Police in Greenville said three area schools were locked down Thursday after a police chase ended in gunfire. The Greenville Police Department said the incident began when two men tried to break into Greenville Collision and Repair on Mauldin Road. Police said one man was arrested at the scene of the business, but a second culprit ran off. Investigators said the second man ran to an assisted-living facility on Cavalier Drive and forced the driver out of passenger van at the location. Police said the man drove off with one passenger still onboard the van. Police pursued the van to the entrance ramp of Interstate 85 southbound, where the chase ended. Officers said shots were fired when the chase ended, but they have not yet said who fired the shots. Authorities said the man was arrested and that the passenger was OK. JL Mann High School, Sara Collins Elementary and Washington Center, were all on lockdown during the incident. The lockdown has been lifted at all three schools. Stay with foxcarolina.com for more updates.

September 28, 2009


Deputies said that a Gaffney man hung a 6-year-old boy on a fence by his shirt, but the man said he did not intend to hurt the boy. Vernon Leverett, 54, was released on bond after being arrested and charged with assault and battery over the weekend. The boy said that Leverett hung him on a fence post then went inside to get his camera. He said that his sister and another child were able to get the him down before Leverett returned. "You don't play with nobody's children like that," said Julia McGill, the boy's mother. "He's a grown man. If he was so called playing, why didn't he play with his kids like that? Why didn't he play with one of the other neighbor's kids like that. Why did he pick my child to put on a fence post?" Leverett said that he would never endanger a child. "This is the fence that I'm supposed to have hung him on," Leverett said, as he pointed to a chain-link fence nearby. "I've got little kids myself. Why would I endanger a child like that? I'm a hardworking, self-employed man and I don't need the drama. I'll have my day in court." McGill said that her son has nightmares about the incident. She said that her children will no longer play at the home.

September 29, 2009

Police said they are still searching for the man who is accused of kidnapping his 2-year-old son after the toddler was found unharmed late Tuesday morning. Sgt. Kelly Spears said Tuesday that 27-year-old Geonaldo R. Young is a violent offender

whose previous charges include armed robbery, assault and resisting arrest. Authorities said they received a call from a woman around 2:45 a.m. Tuesday, stating she had been assaulted by Young, her ex-boyfriend. The woman said she was held against her will but managed to escape. They said that when police arrived, Young and the boy were gone. Police said that the boy was dropped off by a family member. Anyone with information on Young's whereabouts was asked to call 911 immediately.

September 29, 2009

Deputies said that two men who co-owned Genesis Press set fire to the business in an effort to collect the insurance money. Investigators said that a fire at the business on March 29, 2008, damaged a significant portion of the equipment and supplies inside. Christopher Petrone and Lawrence Kudeviz were each charged with second-degree arson and making a false [insurance claim](#)  to obtain benefits. Kudeviz's brother-in-law, James Guzzy, was also charged in January with second-degree arson and second-degree burglary in connection with the blaze. Petrone and Kudeviz were released on \$20,000 [bond](#).

September 30, 2009

Cherokee County deputies have arrested 35 of the 70 people they are looking for in connection with a massive drug operation. The countywide sweep, called 'Operation Revolving Door,' concentrated on suspected drug dealers. Sheriff Bill Blanton said that most of the people who were arrested are repeat offenders. FOX Carolina rode along with deputies as they executed search warrants throughout the county on Tuesday. "Some of them will be running and hiding," Blanton said. "That's OK. We'll run with them, but before the week's over we'll have a majority of them. If not, we'll put their names and pictures in the paper and on the news, so the public will know we're looking for them. We'll make it hard for them to sleep." Blanton said that the people who are arrested during the operation will be entered into a national crime database.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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July 10, 2009

The vice chairman of the University of [South Carolina](#) board of trustees, Samuel Foster II, has resigned. The State reported Friday that the 52-year-old Foster resigned July 1, two days after federal officials in Charlotte, N.C., charged him with bank fraud. Foster had been on the board since 1984 and was in line to become the first African-American chairman of the school's board. Foster is accused of participating in a kickback scheme with an executive of BB&T and of filing a false [federal tax](#) return. The newspaper said Foster's resignation letter merely says he is leaving "for personal reasons." The school did not announce his resignation, but his biographical profile was removed from USC's Web site on Wednesday. Foster could not immediately be reached for comment by The Associated Press

August 17, 2009

Many students in the Upstate's larges counties go back to school this week, and police are urging drivers to use caution on the roads. Students in Spartanburg County District 5 walked in to the [classroom](#) on Monday, including students at Berry Shoals Intermediate and Middle School in Duncan. Mike Powell, the school's principal, said his staff is excited to begin a new school year. "We've been meeting all week to prepare staff, and we are excited for the first day and to see everyone moving quickly," Powell said. The six remaining districts in Spartanburg County begin school on Tuesday. Spartanburg Public Safety reminded drivers on Monday that they should be aware of increased traffic around schools and should use caution in those areas. Officers also said that drivers in both directions are required to stop for school buses that are picking up or dropping off students on two lane roads. They said that drivers in the opposing lanes on multi-lane roads are not required to stop for the school bus, but should slow down and proceed with caution. Public safety said they will be vigorously enforcing the speed limit in school zones to ensure the safety of students, parents and teachers. Students in Anderson County's five districts also go back to school on Tuesday. Greenville County students will begin school on Wednesday.

August 19, 2009

Greenville County Schools said Wednesday that the class of 2009 had some of the highest ACT scores in the state. Last year's graduates posted an average score of 21.4 on the college acceptance test's 36 point scale, school officials said. They said that was up a fraction of a point from last year. Educators said that number is also above the statewide average of 19.7 and that national average of 21.1. Greenville County's average ACT score puts the district in eighth place in South Carolina's 88 school districts, officials said. District officials said that eight of the county's 14 high schools are ranked in the top 25 percent in the state.

September 1, 2009

High school librarian Melissa Payne is starting her new school year with \$1,000 less in her paycheck and three days that she'll be forced to stay home from her job. It's a similar story across the country, where teachers -- once among the groups exempted from furlough days -- are being forced to take unpaid days off amid massive state budget cuts. Georgia is the only state so far to have imposed statewide furloughs for educators this fiscal year, although some states are considering it. But furloughs are happening in individual districts in other states, such as New Mexico, Florida and California, said Ed Muir, deputy director of research and information services for the American Federation of Teachers. For teachers like Payne, the furloughs hurt a salary that already stretches thin most months. She took a pay cut to move to a new school district in metro Atlanta this year shortly before her new employer announced that all educators would be furloughed for three days. Now with [student](#) loans from a recent master's degree and a brand-new home mortgage, Payne is feeling frustrated with just a few days of the school

year under her belt. "I went with this job because, even though it was less money, I thought it would be a better opportunity. And now it's even less money," Payne said. School districts are facing historic cuts amid the worst economic decline in decades. But even if a district manages to avoid layoffs, teachers still are having to take furloughs on days when they would typically be planning lessons, going to conferences and meeting with other educators. It will only become more common as districts struggle to keep up with dwindling state funding and lagging local property tax revenues, Muir predicted. "I think we're looking at more trouble ahead, and unless we find new money, that's going to lead to both furloughs and layoffs," he said. Georgia is already \$900 million in the red this fiscal year, which began July 1. The furloughs for all state employees -- which includes teachers for the first time in more than 25 years -- will save about \$135 million, the majority of which is made up by teacher salaries for 128,000 educators. In North Carolina, teachers and other state employees were docked 10 hours of pay in the spring, but they have until the end of this calendar year to take the furlough time, said Sheri Strickland, president of the North Carolina Association of Educators. The time off must be taken on planning days when children aren't in the [classroom](#), but Strickland doubts that most teachers will even bother to go on leave, instead just absorbing the pay cut. The furloughs for every North Carolina state employee saved \$65 million last fiscal year, which ended June 30, just a drop in the bucket for the \$2.2 billion shortfall that North Carolina faced last year. So far, no teacher furloughs are planned for this year. By and large, it's up to the local school boards in each state whether to furlough teachers because educators are on contract with districts rather than with the state. And many are unionized, which means district administrators must head to the negotiating table with teachers' unions before furloughs can be enacted. But in Georgia, the state simply withheld three days' worth of money for teacher salaries and benefits, forcing districts to turn to furloughs. Only four school districts in Georgia -- three of them large ones -- have managed to find other ways to make up the cuts. The rest of the state's 180 school systems say they have no choice. In years past, states have largely exempted teachers when it comes to layoffs, furloughs and other pay cuts, but the recession has gotten so bad that states can no longer ignore such a large sector of the taxpayer-funded work force. Teacher organizations say the furlough days mean less time for educators to study the latest teaching strategies or take a college class to sharpen their skills in whatever subject they teach. "We are no longer in days where you can plan one lesson and feel pretty confident it's going to suit everybody's needs," Strickland said. "Doing lesson plans in the afternoon or in the evening or during a 30-minute planning time just doesn't quite give you time you need to do that." In Hillsborough County, Fla., the teachers' union and school district have hammered out an agreement to avoid furloughs for now. But if the economic picture worsens unpaid leave could become a reality, said spokesman Stephen Hegarty said. The district had asked for two furlough days for teachers and three for other school employees, he said. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has paved the way for up to five furlough days for school districts as part of the state's massive budget cuts approved this summer. It's up to districts to decide whether to use the unpaid leave. Hit hardest by the nation's foundering economy, California this year has cut \$18 billion in funding for its K-12 schools and community colleges starting in February to address an unprecedented \$60 billion two-year budget deficit. The state laid off 17,000 teachers in the spring after notifying nearly 30,000 that they could be cut. The state has more than 300,000 educators. In Georgia, the governor has said furloughs throughout most of Georgia's 180 school districts is the best way to keep from laying off thousands of teachers and other educators. For parents, furloughs are troubling because they mean less time for teachers to get ready for class and the ever growing pressure of improving student performance on standardized tests. Still, Nancy Turner, of Lilburn, Ga., who has kids going into sixth and third grades, said furloughs are better than the alternative. "I think it's better than having to lay off teachers and make classroom sizes bigger," Turner said.

September 3, 2009

Officials with Greenville County Schools said Thursday that someone who was at Greenville High School last year has been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Officials said that a letter was sent home with [students](#) last week that told parents about the possible exposure to TB germs between January and May 2009. In the letter, district officials said that people who had close, daily contact with the infected person may have inhaled the germs and become infected. They said that people who may have been exposed to the disease are required to undergo a TB skin test. The letter stated that people who have a positive result to the TB skin test have the infection, but are usually not contagious. According to the letter, people with active TB usually suffer from fatigue, poor appetite, weight loss, fever, night sweats and a persistent cough that lasts for more than three weeks. School officials said a separate letter from the [South Carolina](#) Department of Health and Environmental Control has been mailed to students, their parents and school employees who may have been exposed to TB germs.

September 8, 2009

School's out for the day. That means it's time for all play and no work, right? Wrong. Time still has to be found for homework, too. To be sure homework, TV and computer time all get worked in somewhere, a routine must be developed. There are a variety of things parents can do to ensure that kids not only get their homework done, but also have some fun, too. **Stick To A Routine:** Routine is key, according to ParentMap.com. Organizing a schedule and sticking to it will ensure that there is time for everything. Because education is more important than anything else, homework should come first on the list. Set a time limit for each after-school activity, and stick to a routine. Homework time should be set according to the average time it takes to get it done. Of course, the exact amount of time may vary, depending on each homework assignment. **Balancing The Time:** TV and computer time are great, but there needs to be a healthy balance. To balance homework, TV and computer time, first figure out how many hours are available before bedtime once a child's school day is done. The first 30 minutes might be reserved for snack and rest time. The next hour or so could be dedicated to homework. Older children may have even more homework time. Then, depending on what the kids like to do, divide up the remaining time for TV, computer and active play. If your child finishes early, extra studying can be done. Also try surprising your child with earlier play time on occasion. Kids can learn a great deal from both, provided they are used responsibly. Plus, they'll be having fun doing it. If the child has any chores, those will need a time slot as well. **Organize Responsibly:** To help organize all of this, try using daily schedules. Chorebuster.net is one of many Web sites that makes this easier. If there isn't much time to work with, combining homework time with fun time is another solution. For example, if a child is having a hard time with a math problem, try using a computer game that teaches the math skill needed. Despite organizing responsibly, there may be days where straying from the schedule is inevitable. Sticking to the schedule as closely as possible will help everyone stay on track with a fair balance between homework, TV and computer. It also is a great lesson in responsibility. **Enforce The Schedule:** For any schedule to work, parents must be consistent. If you tell your child that homework and one chore must be done by a certain time, this needs to be enforced. Saying one thing and doing another will create imbalance rather than balance.

September 17, 2009

The word bully is one parents dread, and it doesn't matter whether their child is on the giving or the receiving end of the problem. Bullies are a common problem in schools today. How you handle bullying can have a large impact on this and future situations, and set the stage for what is and is not appropriate behavior for your child. If you've recently found that your child is being bullied or is a bully, get involved, get active, and help curb bullying behavior before it goes too far. **Address the issue of bullying with your child:** This isn't something parents can handle on their own -- you must involve your child in the decision to end the bullying cycle. If your child is being bullied, parents need to understand how and to what extent the bullying is taking place. FamilyLobby.com lists multiple types of bullying including digital bullying, physical bullying and emotional bullying. The effects of each are equally harmful and powerful. Determine what type of bullying is taking place and proceed from there. If your child is the bully, he or she may not be willing to admit to his or her misbehavior. However, don't brush the behavior off with a quick, "Don't do it again." It's important for parents of a bully to figure out what's going on so they can change their child's behavior. **Speak with school or sports officials, not other parents:** Though we'd like to believe that all parents are understanding of the issue of bullying, that isn't always the case. Bullying can be a learned behavior. Going directly to a child's parents might not always be the best course of action. PBSKids.org notes the importance of addressing bullying with teachers, principals or coaches, depending on where the bullying is taking place. Professionals who deal with children on a regular basis should have training in addressing issues such as bullying; letting them take the reins here is a good idea. This is true for parents of the bullied and the bully. If you suspect that your child is a bully, talk to his teacher or coach to get a clearer picture of the situation. This can help you as you address the issue with your child. **Stay active and involved:** After you've addressed the issue of bullying with your child and involved adults, don't assume that the issue is closed. Stay active and involved in the bullying situation so that you can quickly intervene again should the situation get out of hand. Stay in contact with teachers and coaches and expect that they will do the same with you. Talk to your child regularly about school, sports and extracurricular activities. If the bullying continues, it may be necessary to expand the participating parties, especially because bullying behavior has been shown to have disastrous consequences for some children. An outside professional or a group meeting may become necessary if parental and school involvement does not result in a satisfactory conclusion.

September 16, 2009

An Upstate student said Tuesday that for the last two years he has been forced to [share](#) his textbooks with his classmates. Michael Lanier is a sophomore at Westside High School. He told FOX Carolina's Jade Hindmon that for each book in his class there are two students, which makes it hard to study for tests. He said that students are being asked to use their own money to photocopy chapters out of some textbooks. Lanier said that he wants to know why more school money is not being allocated for new books. "They are putting in trees, plants and I think they are going to start putting in benches," Lanier said. "Why use that money when we don't have books." Officials with Anderson County School District 5 said that they have ordered books, but they are on back order with the [state Department](#) of Education. They said that a lot of school districts in South Carolina are dealing with the same problem. School officials said they are looking at buying used books to help ease the shortage.

September 24, 2009

Newberry County deputies said that a college prank led to three small explosions on the campus of Newberry College within 24 hours. According to Maj. Todd Johnson, the first explosion happened around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday in the parking lot of Brokaw Hall, a freshman dormitory. He said that officers described the blast as a gunshot. The second explosion happened in the lobby of the same dormitory at about 12:50 a.m. Wednesday, Johnson said. He said that investigators confiscated items that could be used in an over-pressure device after the second blast. Johnson said the third explosion happened inside Brokaw Hall around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. He said that residents were evacuated and the State Law Enforcement Division's bomb squad was called to the scene. SLED said that there was absolutely no terrorist threat associated with the explosions. Investigators described the devices as very small and contained in plastic bottles. Johnson said that four people were being questioned in connection with the incident. No injuries were reported.

September 25, 2009

Four students have been charged in connection with what deputies call a college prank that turned into a serious incident. Steven Bell, Jordan Belton, Christopher Hopkins and Brandon King were charged with manufacturing and possessing a destructive device after three small explosions happened at Brokaw Hall at Newberry College on Tuesday night and Wednesday. Investigators said that the students made the over-pressure devices by mixing household chemicals inside plastic water bottles. The explosions closed part of the campus for several hours while local, state and federal officials investigated the explosions. All four of the men were released on \$5,000 bond.

September 28, 2009

Students beware: The summer vacation you just enjoyed could be sharply curtailed if [President Barack Obama](#) gets his way. Obama said American kids spend too little time in school, putting them at a disadvantage with other students around the globe. "Now, I know longer school days and school years are not wildly popular ideas," the president said earlier this year. "Not with Malia and Sasha, not in my family, and probably not in yours. But the challenges of a new century demand more time in the classroom." The president, who has a sixth-grader and a third-grader, wants schools to add time to classes, to stay open late and to let kids in on weekends so they have a safe place to go. Our school calendar is based upon the agrarian economy and not too many of our kids are working the fields today," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. Fifth-grader Nakany Camara is of two minds. She likes the four-week summer program at her school, Brookhaven Elementary School in Rockville, Md. Nakany enjoys seeing her friends there and thinks summer school helped boost her grades from two Cs to the honor roll. But she doesn't want a longer school day. "I would walk straight out the door," she said. Domonique Toombs felt the same way when she learned she would stay for an extra three hours each day in sixth grade at Boston's Clarence R. Edwards Middle School. "I was like, 'Wow, are you serious?'" she said. "That's three more hours I won't be able to chill with my friends after school." Her school is part of a 3-year-old state initiative to add 300 hours of school time in nearly two dozen schools. Early results are positive. Even reluctant Domonique, who just started ninth grade, feels differently now. "I've learned a lot," she said. Does Obama want every kid to do these things? School until dinnertime? Summer school? And what about the idea that kids today are overscheduled and need more time to play? Obama and Duncan said kids in the United States need more school because kids in other nations have more school. "Young people in other countries are going to school 25, 30 percent longer than our students here," Duncan told the AP. "I want to just level the playing field." While it is true that kids in many other countries have more school days, it's not true they all spend more time in school. Kids in the U.S. spend more hours in school (1,146 instructional hours per year) than do kids in the Asian countries that persistently outscore the U.S. on math and science tests -- Singapore (903), Taiwan (1,050), Japan (1,005) and Hong Kong (1,013). That is despite the fact that Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong have longer school years (190 to 201 days) than does the U.S. (180 days). Regardless, there is a strong case for adding time to the school day. Researcher Tom Loveless of the Brookings

Institution looked at math scores in countries that added math instruction time. Scores rose significantly, especially in countries that added minutes to the day, rather than days to the year. "Ten minutes sounds trivial to a school day, but don't forget, these math periods in the U.S. average 45 minutes," Loveless said. "Percentage-wise, that's a pretty healthy increase." In the U.S., there are many examples of gains when time is added to the school day. Charter schools are known for having longer school days or weeks or years. For example, kids in the KIPP network of 82 charter schools across the country go to school from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., more than three hours longer than the typical day. They go to school every other Saturday and for three weeks in the summer. KIPP eighth-grade classes exceed their school district averages on state tests. In Massachusetts' expanded learning time initiative, early results indicate that kids in some schools do better on state tests than do kids at regular public schools. The extra time, which schools can add as hours or days, is for three things: core academics -- kids struggling in English, for example, get an extra English class; more time for teachers; and enrichment time for kids. Regular public schools are adding time, too, though it is optional and not usually part of the regular school day. Their calendar is pretty much set in stone. Most states set the minimum number of school days at 180 days, though a few require 175 to 179 days. Several schools are going year-round by shortening summer vacation and lengthening other breaks. Many schools are going beyond the traditional summer school model, in which schools give remedial help to kids who flunked or fell behind. Summer is a crucial time for kids, especially poorer kids, because poverty is linked to problems that interfere with learning, such as hunger and less involvement by their parents. That makes poor children almost totally dependent on their learning experience at school, said Karl Alexander, a sociology professor at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, home of the National Center for Summer Learning. Disadvantaged kids, on the whole, make no progress in the summer, Alexander said. Some studies suggest they actually fall back. Wealthier kids have parents who read to them, have strong language skills and go to great lengths to give them learning opportunities such as [computers](#), summer camp, vacations, music lessons, or playing on sports teams. "If your parents are high school dropouts with low literacy levels and reading for pleasure is not hard-wired, it's hard to be a good role model for your children, even if you really want to be," Alexander said. Extra time is not cheap. The Massachusetts program costs an extra \$1,300 per student, or 12 percent to 15 percent more than regular per-student spending, said Jennifer Davis, a founder of the program. It received more than \$17.5 million from the state Legislature last year. The Montgomery County, Md., summer program, which includes Brookhaven, received \$1.6 million in federal stimulus dollars to operate this year and next, but it runs for only 20 days. Aside from improving academic performance, Education Secretary Duncan has a vision of schools as the heart of the community. Duncan, who was Chicago's schools chief, grew up studying alongside poor kids on the city's South Side as part of the tutoring program his mother still runs. "Those hours from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock are times of high anxiety for parents," Duncan said. "They want their children safe. Families are working one and two and three jobs now to make ends meet and to keep food on the table."

September 29, 2009

There is a new crackdown at [Tufts University](#) -- of the X-rated variety. The Medford college's new guest policy, revised from last year, now includes a section that [bars students from "engaging in sexual activity" while their roommate is present](#)," WCVB-TV in Boston reported. A Tufts spokeswoman told [the Boston Herald](#) that the 8,500-student university has fielded about a dozen complaints from frustrated students who said they've been put in uncomfortable situations when their roommates have entertained guests. The policy does not lay out any consequences for violating those rules. The school said it realized it did not have a clear policy addressing such situations. At other Boston-area universities, there are a variety of policies, from Boston College's outright prohibition on "cohabitation in our residence halls" to Harvard's policy discouraging "serious or persistent unwanted sexual conduct."

September 30, 2009

A video that appeared on YouTube recently of Asheville students chanting "change has come" while talking about President Barack Obama has stirred up controversy. The video features some students at Sand Hill-Veneable Elementary School during a performance about famous Americans. The entire program, which was performed in February, was 26 minutes long, but it's the last 55 seconds that are at the center of the debate. Jan Blunt with the Buncombe County School district said that the program included skits and music about people like George Washington, Clara Barton and [Amelia Earhart](#). The program also included a chant about then newly-elected President Barack Obama. During that skit, the children talk about the importance of education and making America better. They also chant things like "change has come" and "yes we can." The program was in accordance with North Carolina curriculum, which includes teaching children about leaders, good citizenship, cultures and diversity, Blunt said. Blunt said that many of those parents, who she said gave a standing ovation at the end of the program, are now upset that their kids have been put on YouTube. She said that they feel their kids were not being indoctrinated. "It's unfortunate, I think, when these children, who are very patriotic and love America, want to succeed and are trying to encourage

themselves to do well, are being made to be political pawn for someone else's agenda," Blunt said. "They did not have an agenda. The teachers didn't have an agenda. They were celebrating an accomplishment, which is the first African-America president of our country." However, Asheville City Councilman Carl Mumpower, compares the chants to the programming of children in Nazi Germany. "That event was about chanting campaign slogans," Mumpower said. "There is a difference, a big difference. That is ritual behavior and that's how you plug things into kids' heads. I'll come right out and say it. That's exactly how the Hitler youth were programed prior to World War II." Mumpower did not say if he or anyone else was taking issue with the message of change, hope and making America a better place, only that it was being drilled into the children's heads. He said that many people feel that politics should be left out of the classroom. FOX Carolina tracked down the man who posted the video on YouTube, which was titled "Liberal Indoctrination Camp," and had received more than 13,000 hits before he pulled it off the site on Tuesday afternoon. "I only saw (and remember having access to only) the part that I posted and had no (or lazily did not take time to look for) other video by which to compare and take in context, so for that I am sorry," the poster said in a statement to FOX Carolina. "I think it is good to dialogue about the issue and have a good debate." Blunt said that some of the parents of the students seen in the video are fearing for the safety of their children. She said that some of the teachers and parents have received hundreds of threatening e-mails and [phone calls](#) from people who call the program indoctrination.

September 30, 2009

Closing schools and day care centers because of [swine flu](#) could cost between \$10 billion and \$47 billion, a report by the Brookings Institution think tank found. The government is urging schools to close only as a last resort, such as when large numbers of kids or staffers come down with swine flu. But in the month since classes began, many schools have closed. As of Monday, there had been at least 187 school dismissals across the country affecting at least 79,678 students, the [Education Department](#) said. The report issued Wednesday by Brookings' Center on Social and Economic Dynamics estimated that the cost of closing all schools in the U.S. for four weeks would be between \$10 billion to \$47 billion. Brookings called that a conservative estimate. Keeping kids home from school would require parents to stay home from work too, and some of those parents are health care workers, the report said. The report also said: -- The cost of mass school closures in selected cities would be \$65 million for Washington, D.C., \$1.1 billion for New York City and \$1.5 billion for Los Angeles County. -- Mass school closures would cause 12 percent of workers to be absent; absenteeism could be higher in lower-income households with only one worker. -- The value of lost class time is estimated to be \$6.1 billion.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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September 21, 2009

The flooding has caused damage throughout Oconee County and several counties in western North Carolina. Oconee County Emergency Management said the following roads are closed: Camp Road, Lester Lane, Lay Mill Road, George Todd Road, McGee Road, Bush Creek Road, Conerross Farm Road and Whitecut Road. That number is down from the 30 road closures that were reported on Sunday evening. Several bridges were out and some smaller dams were breaking under pressure in northern Oconee, according to the sheriff's office. Oconee County Emergency Management Director Rodney Burdette said Monday crews are on standby as another storm system is approaching the area. Burdette said most of the creeks and rivers had receded that were reported out of their banks on Sunday. But added this approaching storm system could change things as the ground is extremely saturated. The National [Weather](#) Service said more than 8 inches of rain fell in Walhalla between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Burdette said he recorded about 10 inches of rainfall at his Walhalla home. Burdette said one family in Walhalla and one in Salem were evacuated. Oconee County Emergency Management issued a voluntary evacuation order on Sunday for residents of Cooper Road near the Georgia border of Oconee County, due to rising waters in that roadway. An emergency shelter was opened at the Westminster Baptist Church in Westminster, S.C., for residents who are unable to relocate with family or friends. The American Red Cross shut down that shelter late Sunday night. Authorities are urging people to stay off the roads in Oconee County if possible. Road crews and law enforcement officials are working to keep drivers out of dangerous areas. Burdette said the area north of Walhalla, S.C., and the western parts of Oconee County are getting hammered by heavy rain. Significant flooding should be reported to the Oconee 911 center at 864-638-4111. Authorities in Western North Carolina are reporting several road closures. The hardest hit areas appear to be Henderson, Transylvania and Polk Counties. As of Monday morning, there had been no reports of serious injuries due to flooding. The major flooding caused school officials in Oconee County and Transylvania County to be on a 2-hour delay Monday morning. FOX Carolina has crews scattered throughout the Upstate covering the weather. Stay with FOX Carolina [News](#) and [Foxcarolina.com](#) for the latest on this developing story. If you have pictures of the floods, you can [upload them into our community slideshow](#), or send them into our newsroom at foxcarolinanews@foxcarolina.com or weather@foxcarolina.com. Please make sure to tell us where the picture was taken and describe the subject of the photo. We may use your pictures on the news.

September 22, 2009

Rain continued to fall in the North Carolina mountains Wednesday night, forcing evacuations in the Rosman area of Transylvania County. Transylvania County schools were placed on a two-hour delay Tuesday morning because of the floodwaters. At one point, flooding shut down Highway 64 in both directions Both Transylvania and Henderson counties have seen a lot of rising water. Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson and Macon counties have also been affected by all the rain. In Rosman, the French Broad River runs through its downtown, bringing with it high waters. There were evacuations Monday night on Main Street and at least one person was rescued. Two neighborhood streets in the Pisgah Forest were also evacuated. A shelter has been set up at the recreation center on Ecusta Road.

September 22, 2009

Emergency officials in Toccoa, Ga., have declared a state of emergency after heavy rains and flooding. Emergency workers said all schools in Stephens County will be closed again on Wednesday. Stephens County officials declared a state of emergency Sunday. The Toccoa city manager said many water lines have broken during the flooding, and many residents may not have water or be experiencing low water pressure. The repairs may take weeks to fix. City Manager Billy Morse said people who have water should boil it if they plan to drink it. The water can safely be used for bathing. Morse said the boil-water advisory is a precaution because of the broken water lines. Residents can pick up free, clean water at 2 locations on Wednesday. Toccoa is giving out water from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Furnside Fire Station and the Pines Golf Course. Residents are asked to bring their own containers to hold the water. Officials said this is some of the worst flooding they've ever seen and portions of several roadways have been washed away.

September 29, 2009

The U.S. Geological Survey says a powerful 7.9-magnitude earthquake has struck in the South Pacific between Samoa and American Samoa. A tsunami alert has been issued for the region. The temblor hit at 6:48 a.m. Tuesday midway between the two island groups. In the Samoan capital of Apia, families fled their homes amid severe shaking that lasted for up to three minutes. Local media reported people were fleeing to higher ground. The USGS said the quake struck 20 miles below the ocean floor and was 120 miles from American Samoa and 125 miles from Samoa. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a general alert for the South Pacific region, from American Samoa to New Zealand.

September 29, 2009

Textile magnate Roger Milliken is throwing cash into aiding the South Carolina Republican Party he helped create pay off its headquarters [mortgage](#) and save money through energy efficiency. Republican Party Chairwoman Karen Floyd said Monday that Milliken will match up to \$170,000 the GOP will raise to retire a \$340,000 mortgage on the party's Columbia headquarters. That was announced as Milliken and Floyd announced the party would undertake upgrades needed to [save](#) power and water at the headquarters. The party will spend \$160,000 on that effort. Milliken said he wants to help the party meet energy and environmental design standards. He said that saving those expenses will help the party cut operating costs. The consultant handling the work expects the GOP could save about \$3,000 a year.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

July 9, 2009

With the U.S. economy still firmly in the grip of a tenacious recession, [President Barack Obama](#) is urging Americans to have patience and give his economic recovery plan time to work. Restating themes he laid out in his weekly radio and [Internet address](#), Obama said in an op-ed posted early Sunday on The Washington Post's Web site that his \$787 billion stimulus program was not expected to return the economy to full health, but to provide a boost that would stop the free fall. "So far, it has done that," the president wrote. "It was, from the start, a two-year program, and it will steadily save and create jobs as it ramps up over this summer and fall." He said his stimulus plan must be given time to work and appealed to Americans, who are increasingly uneasy with rising unemployment and ballooning budget deficits, to let his plan "work the way it's supposed to, with the understanding that in any recession, unemployment tends to recover more slowly than other measures of economic activity." The public has said in polls that it was willing to give Obama time to deal with the economic mess he inherited from President George W. Bush, but with unemployment pushing toward 10 percent, that patience will likely be tested. Republicans, sensing a political opening, have seized the opportunity to argue that Obama's economic stimulus plan was expensive and ineffective. "Simply put, this is now President Obama's economy and the American people are beginning to question whether his policies are working," Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House Republican whip, said in the Republicans' weekly address. Obama, in the op-ed, said "Even as we rescue this economy from a full-blown crisis, I have insisted that we must rebuild it better than before." Health care costs must be controlled, jobs created within the U.S., worker training programs established and budget deficits reduced, he said.

July 24, 2009

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles will start enforcing new rules on inspections next week. The News & Observer of Raleigh reported that enforcement will begin Aug. 1 on a law that blocks registration renewals for [cars](#) that have not been inspected in the past year. The law was supposed to take effect last November, but the agency stopped enforcing the inspection requirements a few days after the law took effect because of several problems. The biggest problem last year was enforcing the requirement involving cars of people who moved into the state or those who bought cars registered in other states. Under a change signed into law earlier this month, cars coming into the state will not have to be inspected until 12 months later, when registrations need to be renewed.

July 24, 2009

A South Carolina legislator is moving ahead with a review of Gov. Mark Sanford's spending practices without the blessings of the Senate's leadership. Republican Sen. David Thomas, of Fountain Inn, is holding an organizational meeting Friday to begin looking at how Sanford used state money on [travel](#) and any taxpayer money connections to his affair with woman in Argentina. Thomas said he will use his authority as chairman of the Senate [Finance](#) subcommittee, which oversees Sanford's budget, to conduct his review of the Republican governor. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman said that kind of inquiry is premature. He said the media should spend more time uncovering issues with spending. Thomas's two fellow subcommittee members are not expected at Friday's meeting.

July 30, 2009

Officials with the Anderson County Jail are hoping County Council will approve the construction of a new jail because the current one is overcrowded. The current jail's capacity is 257, officials said, but the current population is more than 430 inmates. Officials said there are three beds in some cells where there should only be two. [Law enforcement](#) is trying to deal with the overcrowding by suggesting some inmates move through the court system more quickly. The jail's director Garry Bryant said managing the large jail population has been a challenge. "Anytime you're managing an overcrowded jail you have more people than you should in cells," Bryant said. "Sometimes tempers flare and you have the fallout issues from that and they just become harder to manage. A feasibility study was recently completed on the jail and it showed the facility needs several hundred more beds than it currently has. The study said that at one point some inmates were sleeping on the floor. The results of the study were presented to the county's Public Safety Committee. They will present the results to the full County Council later in the year. Officials said it would take a little more than two years to complete the construction of a new jail.


September 15, 2009

Despite pleadings from many lawmakers to move past the Rep. Joe Wilson dispute, some members of Congress are not ready to let it go. The House returns to work Wednesday with nerves still raw over the bitterly divided vote Tuesday to rebuke Wilson, R-S.C., for shouting "You lie" at [President Barack Obama](#) during last week's nationally televised speech to Congress. Just after the vote, Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, argued on the House floor that the president actually had insulted Congress during his speech, instead of the other way around. "He comes in here talking about a lie. ... He says we're making wild claims," Gohmert said of Obama's allegations that Republicans were mischaracterizing Democrats' health care bills. "That's no way to act when you're invited into somebody else's house." Being careful not to violate rules by saying the president was lying in his speech, Gohmert added, "Whoever put that line in his TelePrompTer should know that that's not true." On the Democratic side, Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., accused Wilson of instigating racist sentiment against the president and sending the signal that "you don't have to bury it now. You can bring it out." "I guess we'll probably have folks putting on white hoods and white uniforms again and riding through the countryside intimidating people," Johnson, who is black, told reporters. "That's the logical conclusion if this kind of attitude is not rebuked. Congressman Wilson represents it. He's the face of it." The rare resolution of disapproval against Wilson was pushed through by Democrats insisting that the South Carolina lawmaker had violated basic rules of decorum and civility in his outburst. Republicans dismissed the vote as a political "witch hunt" and a waste of precious time and taxpayers' money.

Wilson had called the White House to apologize shortly after Obama's speech, and he said at the time that the president "graciously accepted my apology and the issue is over." Republicans agreed, but several Democrats pressed the issue when Wilson refused to apologize to Congress. The final vote tally was 240-179, generally but not entirely along party lines. It was 233 Democrats and seven Republicans voting to chastise Wilson, 167 Republicans and 12 Democrats opposing the measure and five Democrats merely voting "present." Wilson's outburst came as Obama said that illegal immigrants would not be eligible for federal subsidies to purchase health insurance under his overhaul [plan](#). Democrats have insisted that their proposals prohibit undocumented immigrants from getting assistance. Republicans say the legislation needs stronger verification requirements. Tuesday's resolution -- a less severe rebuke than formal sanctions such as censure or reprimand -- said Wilson's conduct was a "breach of decorum and degraded the proceedings of the joint session, to the discredit of the House." The Office of the House Historian said the resolution marked the first time in the 220-year history of the House that a member had been admonished for speaking out while the president was giving an address. Deputy House Historian Fred Beuttler said such uproars often lead to a period of less hostile rhetoric because members realize that a line was crossed and the public is watching. Several lawmakers pleaded for civility as Congress continues work on health care legislation. "Both parties must focus on changing for the better and setting an example," said Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa. "Let's all stop the name-calling and shouting. We've got work to do."

September 15, 2009


South Carolina schools chief Jim Rex said Tuesday that he is running for governor in 2010, hoping to move the state past political infighting and distractions to focus on jobs and education. The lone Democrat in statewide office said he wants to emulate two previous governors: Republican Carroll Campbell and Democrat Dick Riley. The 67-year-old former teacher, coach and college administrator said job creation must be the top priority. He said that the state needs a premeditated marketing campaign to put South Carolina in a positive image nationwide. Public education is critical to the state's economic vitality, Rex said. Rex won the schools superintendent post in 2006 by fewer than 500 votes. The Democratic race for governor already includes state Sens. Robert Ford and Vincent Sheehen, Columbia attorney and lobbyist Dwight Drake, and Charleston lawyer

Mullins McLeod. Republican gubernatorial candidates include [Attorney General](#)  Henry McMaster, U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett, state Sen. Larry Grooms, and state Rep. Nikki Haley. Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, a Republican, is also expected to run, but has yet to officially announce his candidacy.

September 16, 2009

Investigators are getting thousands of pages of documents from South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford that are at the heart of a state Ethics Commission probe into his ethics and campaign [finance](#) practices. Sanford lawyer Butch Bowers told The Associated Press Tuesday that the commission requested documents on Sept. 1 that were the basis of Associated Press investigations into the governor's use of state, commercial and private aircraft. Bowers said the commission received an initial batch of documents on Friday and received the rest on Tuesday. Ethics Commission Executive Director Herb Hayden confirmed he had received records by e-mail Friday that included personal calendars for two years. Sanford's travel has been under scrutiny since he revealed in June a yearlong affair with a woman in Argentina.

September 28, 2009

South Carolina Democrats have a second candidate to take on Republican U.S. [Sen. Jim DeMint](#) . York County Democratic Party Chairman Jim Watkins said that Rock Hill lawyer Chad McGowan has told his party's leaders he's entering the race. McGowan did not immediately respond to a message left at his office on Monday by The Associated Press. Mike Ruckes, of Summerville, is also in the race. The Detroit native is a retired Ford manager who also worked at [Chrysler](#). Watkins said it is good to have a field shaping up to take on DeMint. The Republican has become known for his outspoken opposition to federal stimulus spending and earlier said the GOP could "break" President Barack Obama over his health care proposals.

September 29, 2009

The Obama administration is planning to push for new sanctions against Iran, targeting its energy, financial and telecommunications sectors if it does not comply with international demands to come clean about its nuclear program, according to U.S. officials. The officials said the U.S. would expand its own penalties against Iranian companies and press for greater international sanctions against foreign firms, largely European, that do business in the country unless Iran can prove that its nuclear activities are not aimed at developing an atomic weapon. Among the ideas being considered are [asset](#) freezes and travel bans against Iranian and foreign businesses and individuals who do business in those areas, the officials said. The officials spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because the measures were still under review. The proposed sanctions would largely focus on [investment](#) in Iran's energy infrastructure and development, the officials said. Until now, the sanctions have dealt mainly with companies and people suspected of buying or selling weapons of mass destruction or their components. Diplomats from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- as well as Germany meet with Iran's top nuclear negotiator on Thursday to press once again an offer of incentives for Iran to halt suspect activity. But U.S. officials familiar with the process that dates back to the Bush administration are skeptical that Iran will agree to demands to fully disclose its intentions. Iran repeatedly has denied it wants the bomb and insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. Previous meetings -- the last in July 2008 -- have not made progress and the officials said they did not think Thursday's talks in Geneva would produce any significant developments on the nuclear front. Instead, the officials said they expected Iran to raise a broad range of global political concerns while the other participants focused on Iran's nuclear program, including the disclosure last week of a new uranium enrichment facility. These officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the talks, said they believed another round of talks would be scheduled before mid-November, at which Iran would face demands to address the international community's concerns. If they refuse, the officials said the U.S. and its partners would move ahead with new penalties.

September 29, 2009

Liberal Democrats failed Tuesday to inject a government-run insurance option into sweeping [health](#) care legislation taking shape in the Senate Finance Committee, despite widespread accusations that private insurers routinely deny coverage in pursuit of higher profits. The 15-8 rejection marked a victory for Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, who is hoping to push his middle-of-the-road measure through the panel by week's end. It also kept alive the possibility that at least one Republican may yet swing behind the overhaul, a key goal of both Baucus and the White House. "My job is to put together a bill that gets to 60 votes" in the full Senate, the Montana Democrat said shortly before he joined a majority on the committee in opposing the provision. "No one shows me how to get to 60 votes with a public option," the term used to describe a new government role in health care. It takes 60 votes in the 100-member Senate to overcome delaying actions that Republicans may

attempt. Undeterred, supporters of a new role for government in U.S. [health coverage](#) immediately launched a new attempt to prevail. The maneuvering occurred as the committee plunged into a second week of public debate on legislation that generally adheres to conditions that President Barack Obama has called for. The bill includes numerous new consumer protections, including a ban on companies denying insurance on the basis of pre-existing conditions. At the same time it provides government subsidies to help lower-income Americans afford insurance that is currently beyond their means. It also includes steps that supporters say will begin to slow the growth in health care costs nationwide. After weeks of delay, both the House and Senate appear on track to vote on different versions of health care legislation in October. Passage in both houses would set the stage for a compromise to be voted on deeper into the fall. Inside the Senate Finance Committee, the first effort to remake a key portion of the bill came from Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., who said his proposal was far from the government takeover of health care that critics portray. "It's not. It's optional," he said, adding it was designed to offer competition and a lower-priced, reliable choice for consumers shopping for coverage. Rockefeller assailed the insurance industry in withering terms. "I hate to use the word 'rapacious,'" he said -- but quickly added it was warranted. He said omission of a government option from the measure was a virtual invitation to insurance companies to continue placing profits over people, adding they would raise their premiums substantially once the legislation went into effect. All 10 Republicans on the committee voted against the proposal to allow the government to compete directly with insurance companies, Sen. Olympia Snowe among them. Democrats are hoping the Maine lawmaker will eventually break ranks with her party and support the legislation. Also opposed were Baucus and fellow Democrats Kent Conrad of North Dakota, Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, Bill Nelson of Florida and Tom Carper of Delaware. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., backed an alternative approach that he said would introduce more competition into the insurance market nationwide. His version differed from Rockefeller's chiefly in that it would have allowed for the government to negotiate payments with doctors, hospitals and other health care providers for an initial two-year period rather than pay them at the same rates as under Medicare. Republicans countered that the proposals would lead to the demise of the private insurance industry and result in a system that is completely run by the government. "Washington is not the answer," declared Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, cited private studies -- one by the conservative Heritage Foundation, the other by the Lewin Group, owned by United HealthCare -- saying millions would be pushed out of private insurance as the government held fees to doctors at artificially low levels. He said the result would be a violation of Obama's pledge that consumers would be able to keep their current insurance if they wanted once the legislation went into effect. While Baucus voted against the proposal, he was at pains to counter Rockefeller's charge that the legislation increased subsidies that would go to insurance companies without dictating changes in past practices. He said the legislation raises taxes on insurers, bans the practice of denying coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions and limits the extra premiums that can be charged on the basis of age.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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July 8, 2009

A Seneca plant announced the layoff 119 temporary workers because of a decrease in the demand for the product it produces. Covidien said that the layoffs will be effective on Wednesday. The company said that a reduction in demand for its SCD sleeves, a vascular therapy [compression](#) device, is anticipated, which led to the decrease in its workforce. Covidien said the decrease in the workforce will continue until the end of the company's fiscal year, which is Sept. 30. The company said that the decrease in demand for its product is forecast to continue through 2010.

July 9, 2009

Fluor Corp. plans to add more than 100 jobs in [South Carolina](#) under a new contract to build and operate military bases in Afghanistan. The [Greenville](#) News reported Thursday the contract with the U.S. Army could be worth more than \$7 billion over the next five years. Fluor already employs about 2,500 people in Greenville. The company's contract calls for the management of power, food service and transportation at 62 bases in Afghanistan, as well as building and managing another dozen bases. Bob Jones is the senior vice president for operations in Greenville. He said the number of Greenville employees working on the contract will increase from about 165 to about 300. Jones said the new positions are in project control and management, finance, procurement, estimating, subcontracting and human resources.

July 20, 2009

Henderson County officials said that Continental will be adding 338 jobs to its work force in Fletcher over the next five years. The plant, which manufactures brake systems and components, said the new jobs are part of the \$30 million it will invest into its plant in western North Carolina. Fletcher Mayor Bill Moore said that the expansion shows that the town places priority on retaining and growing its advanced manufacturing base. "We are proud to have been an active participant in Continental's decision to locate this investment and job creation project," Moore said. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue said the company is eligible to receive a grant equal to 60 percent of the state personal [income tax](#)  withholdings derived from the creation of these new jobs. "Established companies continue to grow here because they know the value of our top business climate, skilled [workforce](#) and tremendous quality of life," Perdue said. Plant manager Bobby Nelon said the overall wages for the new jobs will average a little more than \$36,000, not including benefits.

July 21, 2009

Officials said Tuesday that a manufacturing partnership between two South Carolina companies will create new agriculture technology and 50 jobs. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported that the deal between Kusters Zima Corp. and Agri-Tech Producers will bring the new jobs to Spartanburg County. The deal's financial terms were not disclosed. Spartanburg-based Kusters Zima will produce new equipment that converts agricultural waste into a coal substitute. It's technology that Agri-Tech of Columbia has been researching since 2005.

July 22, 2009

A business that has been a part of Greenville's West End since 1960 said it will close on Wednesday. "The Vacuum and Sewing Center" has been on Main Street in downtown Greenville for decades, but the owner said that business has been too slow to keep it open. Eight people who work at the shop will lose their jobs when it closes. "This is just truly a sad time," said WD Moye Jr., the business's owner. "I can no longer support my family. I've got eight

other families counting on me. It's been very hard, very difficult." Moyer said he had to use his own money to pay his workers for the past four pay periods.

July 23, 2009

The company said Wednesday it will soon begin work on the new lab in Greenwood and hopes to have it operating by fall to handle Christmas orders. Officials said the lab will bring about 185 new jobs to the state. Company leaders said the new lab will take advantage of the rapid growth of the personal photo products market. Workers will make personal photo gifts that will be delivered to customers at retail stores and through direct mail. Fujifilm opened the Greenwood plant in 1988. The complex now has five labs that make [printing](#) plates, recyclable cameras and color photo paper.

July 30, 2009

BMW has offered voluntary separation packages to workers at its facility in Greer even as plans for a \$750 million expansion remain on track. The Greenville News reported Thursday that the offers are part of the automaker's plan to cut its work force by about 8,000 worldwide. The company has more than 100,000 employees. It has not set a target number for the buyouts. BMW Manufacturing Co. spokesman Bobby Hitt said 3,000 workers at the Greer plant were eligible for the separation package. About 5,000 people work at the plant. The [company](#) had said early last year it would add about 500 jobs in Greer as part of the \$750 million expansion, originally targeted to be completed in about four years.

July 30, 2009

The maker of a police cruiser which had been considering the Upstate for its new plant has chosen [Indiana](#) instead. Caron Motors Corporation announced on Wednesday that it will build its new facility in Connersville, Ind. The company thanked South Carolina officials for the years of negotiations in which they have been involved. It said that despite passing on the Palmetto State, the company's product will have a positive impact on every state in the nation. Caron Motors said it expects to bring 10,000 new jobs to the Hoosier State and is [investing](#) more than \$350 million to develop the new law enforcement vehicle. The company estimates it will bring in more than \$3 billion in revenue. Production is scheduled to begin in 2012.

September 1, 2009.

GE Aviation announced plans for an expansion at its Greenville County facility on Tuesday, which will bring 100 new [jobs](#) to the area by 2013. The expansion is part of a multimillion-dollar investment that will [fund](#) the business' relocation from Garlington Road to a 150,000-square-foot building in the Matrix Industrial Park off Augusta Road. "Over the last five years, GE Aviation has outgrown the 50,000-square-foot building that we shared with GE Energy," said Jennifer Smith, plant leader at GE Aviation in Greenville. "By moving to the larger building, we can continue to grow and meet our customers' needs." The Greenville plant produces high-pressure turbine blades that are used in commercial aircraft engines. The expansion will help cut down production time for the blades. The relocation is scheduled to begin in November and be finished by early 2010. The business expects to begin expanding its existing workforce of 140 with the new positions by 2010.

September 1, 2009

The economic downturn has taken a toll on U.S. cities, forcing them to slash jobs, raise [taxes](#) and fees and limit hours of operation at libraries, zoos, parks and other popular facilities, according to a survey. The National League of Cities' 2009 report on city fiscal conditions released Tuesday also had some good news for city residents: About half of all cities maintained or even increased spending on public safety. But NLC research director Christopher Hoene warned that cities including Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago have explored cuts to public safety as a way

to cope with future budget shortfalls. "The worst of the recession's impact for cities still isn't here yet. We'll be feeling it in 2010 and 2011," Hoene said. "That means service cuts and quality-of-life changes that define who you are as a city." Because of how cities raise and collect their revenues, the report found they will be weathering the effects of the downturn long after a national economic recovery is under way. Persistent state budget shortfalls will also contribute to cities' fiscal woes, as states continue to slash aid to local governments. The NCL report was based on data collected from fiscal officers in 380 cities across the United States. Nearly all of those surveyed have populations of 50,000 or more. A steep drop in property tax revenues has had a major impact on cities, about 95 percent of which collect and rely on property tax revenue to [fund](#) services. About half have a local sales tax and 10 percent have a local income tax. Hoene said cities that suffered the worst of the housing and foreclosure crisis like Phoenix and Las Vegas were the first to feel the effects of the downturn. The next wave were cities that rely most heavily on sales and property tax, including San Diego, Dallas, Miami, Chicago and other, smaller cities in the Midwest. To meet their fiscal challenges, the report found that 67 percent of cities have cut jobs or enacted a hiring freeze while 62 percent have delayed or canceled capital projects. Only 14 percent have cut public safety so far, the report found. To boost revenue, 27 percent of cities reported raising fees on services like water use and garbage collection; 25 percent hiked property taxes; and five percent raised their sales tax. Even as city revenues have dropped, their wage, pension and health care costs have steadily climbed and will continue to do so even without an economic recovery, the report found. The report did not measure the effects of the recession on city schools because only about a dozen states allow cities to run their own school systems.

September 25, 2009

Plans to close a 15-mile stretch of Interstate 385 for up to eight months have lawmakers and others concerned. The [South Carolina](#) Department of Transportation said Thursday that it plans to shut down northbound I-385 from its intersection with Interstate 26 to the Gray Court area in northern Laurens County beginning in January. The agency said that the closure is needed to make some necessary repairs to the highway. SCDOT said that the repairs include expanding medians and replacing asphalt with concrete. They said that six bridges will also be elevated and a bridge that connects I-26 and I-385 will be replaced. The planned detour diverts Greenville-bound traffic onto I-26 to Spartanburg and then back southbound on Interstate 85 to Greenville. Sen. David Thomas, of Fountain Inn, which is just north of Gray Court on I-385, called the closure an inconvenience and time-consuming. He said that the DOT should turn the southbound lanes of the interstate into a two-lane road, allowing northbound traffic to still use the highway. Thomas was not the only person objecting to the planned closure. A member of the Greenville Pickens Area Transportation Study board told The Greenville News on Friday that the closure would be economically disastrous. A freight company manager also told the newspaper that his company would be forced to struggle with higher fuel costs and slower delivery times because of the shutdown. Thomas said that he will meet with officials from SCDOT on Friday to discuss the plan.

September 28, 2009

Dalkotech announced plans on Monday to open its newest facility in Newberry County, creating 50 new jobs. The company, which specializes in the production of welded and machined parts, will move into a pre-existing building in the Newberry County Industrial Park. The new plant will be outfitted with machinery and equipment from its plants in Canada. Dalkotech's newest operation will focus on robotically welding large frame components for the Komatsu Corporation and other customers. The South Carolina Department of Commerce said the new plant represents a \$600,000 investment by Dalkotech. The new plant is expected to be online by the end of October. Dalkotech said it plans to begin filling the new jobs by mid-October. The positions include welders, robot programmers and machinists.

September 29, 2009

A waste-to-energy conversion company announced on Tuesday that it will relocate its headquarters from New York City to Greenville, bringing 25 jobs to the area over the next five years. Waste2Energy is a worldwide supplier of technology designed to convert municipal solid waste and biomass traditionally sent to landfills into clean, renewable energy. The company designs, builds and installs waste-to-energy plants that can operate in remote environments. The Greenville headquarters will initially [house](#) administration, engineering, sales, marketing and customer service support to Waste2Energy customers. "There's no doubt that the outstanding engineering and project management talent in this region, the Greenville-Spartanburg airport and the lower costs of doing business here were [drivers](#) in our selection," said Waste2Energy CEO Peter Bohan. The company's new

headquarters will be located at 1 Chick Springs Road and is expected to open toward the end of 2009. To apply for the positions, visit www.waste2energy.com.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2009**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)

Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

July 17, 2009

Firefighters said that at least 10 families were displaced by a fire at an apartment complex in Piedmont on Friday afternoon. The fire happened at the Heritage Trace Apartments off Highway 153 at about 1 p.m. FOX Carolina's Candace Hutchins reported that at least one of the apartment buildings was heavily damaged by the fire, which appears to have started on the second floor. The American [Red Cross](#) said that at least eight units were destroyed by the fire, six of which were occupied. The relief organization said that volunteers are at the scene helping the affected families. Hutchins said that at least 16 units were evacuated. Firefighters from departments in both Greenville and Anderson counties were at the scene. So far, no one has been reported injured in the blaze. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.


July 21, 2009

Residents of a Pickens apartment complex said that despite them paying their bills their apartments are in disrepair and the owner of the complex is not paying his bills. Renters at Winwood Gardens Apartments said something has to be done about the owner of the apartment complex. They said that even though they paid their bills on time, neither the water bill for the complex nor the trash bill were being paid. Tenants who told FOX Carolina about the problem said that the trash finally got picked up on Monday after nearly a month without any [service](#). They said that management also told them that the water was going to be shut off. Residents said they have been told that the owner of the complex owes \$10,000 for water. The water company said they will give the owner another 30 days to pay the bill before they shut off the water. "My mother is handicapped and I have to have water in case something happens to her," said Michael Anthony, a tenant. I don't have anywhere to go and a whole bunch of these people out here don't have anywhere to go," said Leslie Freeman, another tenant. The owner of the complex, Kevin Flessner, released a statement on Monday. "I'm doing everything I can for the tenants," Flessner said in the statement. "I'm trying to correct these problems." Residents also said that the roof on some of the units is falling in and the air conditioning in other units is not working anymore.


July 24, 2009

The Salvation Army in Greenville said Thursday that it has about two days worth of food left to help those in need. Pamela Garcia with the Salvation Army said that the charity has seen a 62 percent increase in the number of people who are requesting assistance. She said that last July they fed a little over 300 [families](#). She said that this July its already close to 600 families in need. She said that the charity has already this year exceeded the number of food bags it gave out last year. The organization is asking residents to look in their pantry and see if they have any non-perishable food items they can spare. Garcia said the group is in desperate need of rice, canned fruits and vegetables. "Our supply here at the Salvation Army is very low," Garcia said. "We are hoping that the community will step up and help by donating non-perishable food items." I have been hungry before and the Salvation Army is a program that really helps the needy," said Lonnie Cline with the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is asking anyone who wants to donate to drop off the items at the [office](#) on Rutherford Street in downtown Greenville. A local jeweler is hoping to help out the Salvation Army, as well. Robin Newton with Diamond's Choice at the Shops at Greenridge told FOX Carolina that he will polish anyone's jewelry free of charge if they bring in a canned food item. For more information, call the store at 864-627-8004.

September 4, 2009

Greenville's new curfew begins on Friday night, which means teens will have to be out of downtown by 10 p.m. The curfew was put into effect for 60 days after a brawl involving nearly 1,000 teenagers near Falls Park last Saturday night. Greenville Police Chief Terri Wilfong told the City Council on Monday night that the teens blocked the sidewalks. She said that part of Main Street was closed in an attempt to control the crowd. Witnesses said that a large fight broke out in front of Soby's Restaurant. Wilfong said that when officers moved in to break up the fight, hundreds of kids ran, which caused more chaos. "The analogy that I want to give you is if you are in a theater and someone gets on the stage and yells, 'Fire!' Wilfong said. "The chaos that occurs then is what we say in downtown Greenville." Wilfong told the council that without a way to limit the number of teenagers downtown her department cannot ensure the safety of people in the area. The City Council enacted a temporary curfew that will close Falls Park at 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights to anyone 17 or younger without their parents or legal guardians. The new curfew will also close the downtown business district at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights to the same group of people. The curfew also includes nights before holidays like this Sunday night, which comes before [Labor Day](#) . Police said that anyone who violates the curfew will be taken to a central location where someone will be called to pick them up.

September 4, 2009

Workers at the Upper South Carolina State Fair said they are prepared for the surge of teenagers that is expected this weekend as Greenville's new curfew takes effect. This weekend will be the first time Greenville's newly approved curfew will be applied. The new rule says that teens under 18 years old cannot be in Falls Park after 9 p.m. without a parent or legal guardian. The downtown business district will close to the same type of teenagers at 10 p.m. The fair being held near the Greenville-Pickens Speedway opens on Thursday afternoon and closes on Sept. 13. Some nights the fair will stay open until 1 a.m. Fair [organizers](#) said the midway is a great place for parents to send their teenagers who are looking for something to do and cannot go to downtown Greenville because of the curfew. The fair's [marketing director](#) , Keith Cochran, said there will be enough security on hand to protect everyone who is attending. He said that anyone who causes problems will be escorted off the grounds. Cochran said this year's fair includes not only some old crowd favorites, but also has some new attractions. "The largest roller coaster in the history of the fair is here," Cochran said. "It's truly an all-new midway with more kids rides than ever before." Admission to the fair is \$6, but there are discounts on certain days.

September 15, 2009

The [Internet](#) is an area that can pose a very real threat to children. The anonymity of the 'Net offers adults the chance to pose as children, then try to set up a face-to-face meeting. Young teens may also be lured into virtual relationships with older adults that may result in actual encounters. Here's what parents can do: Never give out identifying information -- home address, school name, or telephone number -- in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards, and be sure you're dealing with someone that both you and your child know and trust before giving it out via e-mail; Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information. Consider using a pseudonym or unlisting your child's name if your service allows it; Get to know the services your child uses. If you don't know how to log on, get your child to

show you; Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material; Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission; If a meeting is arranged, make the first one in a public spot, and be sure to accompany your child; Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable; Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages; If you or your child receives a message that is harassing, of a sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for their assistance; Should you become aware of the transmission, use, or viewing of child pornography while online, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by calling (800) 843-5678. You should also notify your [online service](#); Remember that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person, it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him or herself; Remember that everything you read online may not be true. Any offer that's "too good to be true" probably is. Be very careful about any offers that involve your coming to a meeting or having someone visit your house; Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder; Remember to monitor their compliance with these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer. A child or teenager's excessive use of online services or bulletin boards, especially late at night, may be a clue that there is a potential problem; Remember that personal computers and online services should not be used as electronic baby-sitters; Be sure to make this a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than the child's bedroom. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends. **Here's what children can do:** Ask your child to observe the following rules. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission; I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable; I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along; I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents; I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service; I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

September 30, 2009

A new study has found that the rate of men killing women in South Carolina is nearly double the national average. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported Wednesday that the study by the Violence Policy Center said that women in South Carolina are more likely to be killed by a husband or a boyfriend than by a stranger. South Carolina is ranked eighth in the nation for the number of women killed by men. Rebecca Williams-Agee with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault called the annual report a wake-up call. She said the state consistently finishes in the Top 10. The report also found that nearly all of the 46 women killed by men in 2007 in South Carolina knew their killers. Two-thirds of the victims were the killers' wives, ex-wives or girlfriends.